

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A method for prolonging the physiological life of a rhizome of a mother banana or plantain plant after the fruit bunch of the mother plant has been harvested, the mother banana or plantain plant including a rhizome having a selected sucker plant as a daughter plant and an alternate sucker plant growing from the rhizome on opposite sides of the mother plant,

periodically pruning the alternate sucker to prevent the alternate sucker from maturing into an adult plant and producing fruit,

introducing a systemic inducer composition containing nutrients and microorganismic substance into the rhizome of the mother plant to provide nutrients and impart disease and insect resistance to the mother and daughter plants such that the mother plant can initially produce and the daughter plant can later produce a fruit bunch with improved yield and quality.
2. The method as defined in Claim 1 and introducing an inducer composition containing nutrients and microorganismic substance into the leaf sheath of the mother plant, daughter plant or non-selected sucker plant as a supplemental conduit for introducing nutrients and microorganismic substance into these plants for producing better fruits.

3. The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the nutrient are conventional fertilizers combined with microorganismic substances.
4. The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the nutrient is selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, phosphorous acid, phosphite salt, phosphate salt, calcium salt, sodium salt, magnesium salt, manganese salt, zinc salt, copper salt, iron salt, sulfuric acid and hydrochloric acid.
5. The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the microorganismic substance is selected from the group consisting of fungi, bacteria, viruses and the extracts thereof.
6. The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the systemic inducer composition is contained within a solid spike which is implanted within the parenchymatous material of the rhizome where nutrients are stored and whereby nutrients and microorganismic materials are released from the spike in small quantities over a period of time.
7. The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the systemic inducer composition comprises a liquid which is introduced into the rhizome of the mother plant to enable the nutrients and microorganismic substance to enter the cells of the plants.
8. The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the systemic inducer composition is contained within a solid spike including a nutrient

comprising sodium bicarbonate containing a compressed gas for disintegrating the nutrient into easily soluble forms for absorption by the rhizome.

9. The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the systemic inducer composition is contained within a solid spike including a nutrient comprising a solidified fertilizer containing a gas under pressure for disintegrating the nutrient into easily soluble forms for absorption by the rhizome.
10. The method as defined in Claim 8 wherein the compressed gas comprises carbon dioxide.
11. The method as defined in Claim 8 wherein the compressed gas comprises compressed air.
12. The method as defined in Claim 9 wherein the compressed gas is carbon dioxide.
13. The method as defined in Claim 9 wherein the compressed gas is compressed air.